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Docket No.: K-C 16247.1

## COMBINED DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

We, the inventors,

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7.     Name:                   Cathleen M. UTTECHT  
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8.     Name:                   Xiaomin ZHANG  
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       Citizenship:         United States of America

declare that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification and claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/291,239, and we verily believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors or discoverers of the invention or discovery in

**ABSORBENT MATERIALS HAVING IMPROVED FLUID  
INTAKE AND LOCK-UP PROPERTIES**

described and claimed in an application for Letters Patent of the United States having Serial No. 10/291,239, and a Filing Date of 08 November 2001; that this application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in our earlier filed pending application(s) of which we hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C., Section 120, Serial No. 10/017,683, filed 14 December 2001; that as to the subject matter of this application which is common to any said earlier application(s), we do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before our invention or discovery thereof; that to the best of our knowledge and belief the invention of said common subject matter has not been in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the earliest of said application(s) or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to the earliest of said application(s), or patented or made the subject of an inventors' certificate in any foreign country prior to the date of the earliest of said application(s) on an application filed by ourselves or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to the earliest of said application(s) in this country; and that no application for patent or inventors' certificate on the invention or discovery of said common subject matter has been filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

None

that as to the subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application(s), we do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before our invention or discovery thereof; that to the best of our knowledge and belief the invention thereof has not been in public use or on sale in the United States

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more than one year prior to this application or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, or patented or made the subject of an inventors' certificate in any foreign country prior to the date of this application on an application filed by ourselves or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application in this country; that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a); that, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in said earlier application(s) in the manner provided by 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, we acknowledge our duty to disclose information that is material to examination of this application which occurred between the filing date of said earlier pending application(s) relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120 and the filing date of this application, and that no application for patent or inventors' certificate on this invention or discovery has been filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

None

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

We hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Michael J. Bendel	Reg. No. 39,605	Sebastian C. Pugliese III	Reg. No. 42,091
Patricia A. Charlier	Reg. No. 38,840	James B. Robinson	Reg. No. 34,912
Thomas J. Connelly	Reg. No. 28,404	Rick M. Shane	Reg. No. 50,921
Gregory E. Croft	Reg. No. 27,542	Karl V. Sidor	Reg. No. 32,597
Ralph H. Dean	Reg. No. 41,550	Dana E. Stano	Reg. No. 50,750
Alyssa A. Dudkowski	Reg. No. 40,596	Douglas H. Tulley	Reg. No. 34,743
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Steven D. Flack	Reg. No. 40,608	Patrick C. Wilson	Reg. No. 31,893
Thomas M. Gage	Reg. No. 33,385	Paul Y. Yee	Reg. No. 29,460
Scott B. Garrison	Reg. No. 39,198	Thomas W. Speckman	Reg. No. 22,617
Joseph P. Harps	Reg. No. 28,854	Douglas H. Pauley	Reg. No. 33,295
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Kyle K. Kappes	Reg. No. 34,846	Charles C. Kinne	Reg. No. 31,631
John P. Kirby, Jr.	Reg. No. 25,348	Nick C. Kottis	Reg. No. 31,974
Nancy M. Klembus	Reg. No. 40,051	Kevin D. Erickson	Reg. No. 38,736
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Thomas M. Parker	Reg. No. 42,063		

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## PETITION

Wherefore we Pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the specification and claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/291,239, and we hereby subscribe our names to the specification and claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/291,239, Declaration, Power of Attorney and this Petition.

## DECLARATION

The undersigned further declare that all statements made herein of their knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dec. 10, 2002  
Date

Richard Norris Dodge II  
Richard Norris DODGE II

Jan 2, 2003  
Date

Nancy Birbiglia LANGE  
Nancy Birbiglia LANGE

Jan 2, 2003  
Date

Jayant CHAKRAVARTY  
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Sridhar RANGANATHAN  
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Dec 10, 2002  
Date

Fu-Jya Daniel Tsai  
Fu-Jya Daniel TSAI

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Date

Cathleen M. Uttecht  
Cathleen M. UTTECHT

Dec. 10, 2002  
Date

Zhang, Xiaomin  
Xiaomin ZHANG

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